



The Clan Matheson Society Australia Newsletter

Invitation to December Clan Matheson Meeting Sat 7 December 2019

Please note that you are cordially invited to a meeting of Clan Matheson at the Daylesford Highland Gathering at Victoria Park, Daylesford. Rendezvous at the McGillivray Clan tent at 12:00 Noon.

FEES FOR 2019-20 DUE NOW

Please send us your dues now. Do not put this Newsletter aside and tell yourself you will do it later. Please do it NOW. A number of members have not paid dues for several years and we cannot continue to function on this basis. Annual dues are only \$25 per family—2 adults and children under 18. Direct deposit is the preferred method, but cheques, made out to the Clan Matheson Society, can be sent to the Treasurer, Genevieve Ahearne at PO Box 166 Rye Vic 3941.

Bank details for online transfer are:

Bendigo Bank (Blackburn South Branch) BSB 633 000,
Account 145 886 719 Clan Matheson account.

Please use as reference your postcode and as much of your full name as possible to unequivocally identify you—remember many of us have the same surname. Thanks.

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Colin, Warren, John, Danuta, Joan, and Mary at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at the ANZ Stadium in Sydney—see page 2.

CLAN MATHESON INTERNATIONAL GATHERING USA 2020

There is to be another International Gathering of Clan Matheson, this time in North Carolina, USA, see August Newsletter. It is being held in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Highland Gathering which claims to be the largest such gathering in the world. If you are interested in attending the Clan Gathering, please do let me know as the USA Chief's Lieutenant (Colvin) will want some idea of numbers for organisational purposes. Email gathering2020@clanmatheson.org for more information

Colin Matheson

President and Chief's Lieutenant for Australia

CLAN MATHESON

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT RESERVOIR HOTEL BENDIGO 18/08/2019

The trailer the Clan uses to store materials for Gatherings, such as the tent, tables etc, is currently stored at Janet Blainey's house but will have to be moved as Janet is moving. Warren has agreed to collect it and store it (temporarily) at Bendigo. We need an inventory of the trailer contents.

We have been told there were Australian Mathesons at the 2019 Edinburgh Tattoo in Edinburgh. Brad will be asked to find out who these were.

The website continues to be a topic for discussion as arrangements for updating it are not satisfactory yet. It was agreed that Clan funds should be spent on doing this professionally and we need to get a quote for this. It requires updating several times per year and needs about 30 mins work per month to do this.

Several people have promised articles for the Newsletter and one comment is that it should be shorter so more people would actually read it, and it would be cheaper to distribute. It currently costs only \$106.50 per year to distribute and a proportion of \$99 to print as most copies are distributed by email.

There was discussion about how to raise attendance at meetings. Perhaps if they were held in conjunction with an event, people could come to both. Accordingly, the next meeting will be held in Daylesford to coincide with the Daylesford Highland Gathering on 7 December. Daylesford is close to Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat and other Victorian centres.

Colin to get Clan Tune to Colvin USA for 2020 International Gathering. Some interest in attending 2020 gathering in USA – none confirmed as yet.

Income during the year was \$1337.45 (\$1150 memberships and \$187.50 merchandise), expenditure was \$871.27 (Newsletters \$106.50, ink cartridges \$99.87, institutional memberships \$107.80, insurance \$195) and the current bank balance is \$6018.73.

The Committee gratefully thanked Avis Matheson for her generous donation of a length of Matheson Tartan.

Election of office bearers:

President	Colin Matheson
Secretary	Roma Jorgenson
Treasurer	Genevieve Ahearn
Vice-President	Warren Matheson
Clan Piper	Warren Matheson
Committee Members:	Margaret Fleming, Ruth Pearce, Euan McGillivray, Brad Matheson Janet Blainey, Rob & Helen Mathieson, Ross Matheson, Mary Molan.

Next Meeting 7 December at Daylesford Highland Games, rendezvous at McGillivray tent 12 noon.

Mathesons at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney 2019.



Here Warren is giving some advice to other pipers in the massed bands rehearsal before the REMT in Sydney.

Mathesons at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney 2019 continued.....

Twenty Mathesons took advantage of the opportunity to see the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo performance held in Sydney in October 2019. Twelve of us were from David Mathieson's family who live at Port Macquarie on the Central NSW coast. Six of us were able to march in the massed Clans/bands procession that began proceedings. Our performance was the matinee, held at 11am on the morning of 19th October and was probably not as popular as the evening performances. As it turned out, the Mathesons were the ONLY Clan to march with the massed bands at the matinee and consequently were very prominent, as you can see from the pictures. We were each presented to the Distinguished Visitor and each given a dram to drink (for some reason the blokes got a double dose) out there in the arena in front of the 25,000 audience. John Mathieson and Warren were the most resplendently dressed of us, but none were wholly prepared for the honour done us. Our well-travelled banner stood proudly announcing who we are. We had planned to attend a ceilidh in the evening, but the music and dancing were not what we were expecting and so we left early. A more complete selection of photos and movies is available at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cszbf1yupxqobdx/AADRyQDL0eqH6MMi8fc5VY9Xa?dl=0>



Colin, Mary, Warren, John and Danuta before the rehearsal

John, Danuta, Colin, Mary and Joan in front of the 'Castle' before the rehearsal. Warren was with the band at this point.



Warren, Joan, Danuta, John, (Chris & Steve behind), Mary and David during the performance. David's family of 12 are to his left, non-Mathesons sitting behind.

Alexander (Sandy) Mathieson

and his family's involvement in coal mining

(B: 22 Sep 1844 Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland D: 29 Jul 1932 Carrington, Newcastle NSW)

by David Mathieson

My great grandfather, Sandy Mathieson, arrived in Melbourne on the sailing vessel 'Albatross' in 1855 when he was 11 years of age. He was accompanied by his father, William (Bill) Mathieson and mother Agnes (nee Brown). Bill was a weaver and lost his employment in Lanark, Lancashire, as a result of the industrial revolution.

Agnes's brothers, James and Alexander Brown had earlier arrived in Sydney in 1844 on the sailing vessel 'Margaret' with their parents, who were also displaced weavers. They moved to Newcastle, where James and Alexander became 'coal barons' by squatting on a coal outcrop at Four Mile Creek near Maitland and competed with the Australia Agricultural Company's monopoly of supplying coal to coastal shipping and later exports to California. The business grew rapidly and Bill Mathieson was given a job as clerk for J & A Brown, whilst Sandy worked in their mines. J & A Brown expanded to own many coal mines in the Hunter Valley and became Coal & Allied Industries, which was taken over by Rio Tinto in later years.

Now back to Sandy Mathieson. At age 23 he married Christina Allan Miller, age 20, at her parents' home at 278 Darby Street, Newcastle on 12th April 1867. They had 10 children of which the 4th is my grand father, James Mathieson, born Newcastle 16 July 1876.

Sandy left the employ of J & A Brown and joined the Old Coal & Copper Company to diversify his experience and later he moved to the Australian Agricultural Company, where he remained for 20 years in coal mining.

In 1885 at age 41 Sandy was engaged by the Newcastle Mining Company to start and manage a new coal mine called 'Hetton Colliery' on Bullock Island, which was a muddy mangrove swamp in the backwaters near the entrance of the Hunter River to the Pacific Ocean. Its purpose was to mine a thick seam of coal that extended under Newcastle Harbour and several miles out to sea beyond iconic Nobby's. Two shafts had to be sunk on the muddy island to reach the coal seam 300 feet below. The mullock recovered from these shaft excavations filled the muddy mangrove area around the shafts and a proper island started to be formed. Rock ballast from empty sailing vessels arriving from England and California, plus dredging of the wharf areas also contributed fill, and so the suburb of Carrington was formed. (It is currently becoming a sought-after residential area in Newcastle.) Sandy was appointed the second Mayor of Carrington in 1886 for 2 years and in that time Little Gibb Street was renamed Mathieson Street in his honour. It remains a very narrow one-way lane lined with rare heritage listed miners' cottages and worth an inspection.

'Hetton Colliery' employed hundreds of miners for 30 years until 1915, when it closed and Sandy retired aged 71. His retirement gift was the 'poppet head' from the mine. During retirement, Sandy hand sawed the 'poppet head' western red cedar into sections and lengths for the building of the internals of his retirement home, 'Sunnybraye' at 47 Young Street, Carrington, which remains there to-day.

Sandy was very much involved with St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Layman Street, Newcastle, where he was elder from 1911 to 1931. Sandy died 30 July 1932 age 87, whilst Christina died 18 October 1930 age 83.

Alexander (Sandy) Mathieson and his family's involvement in coal mining continued. . . .

My previously mentioned grandfather, James (Jimmy) Mathieson, followed the coal mining profession and assisted his father, Sandy, establish another coal mine called 'Hetton – Bellbird' near Cessnock, NSW. Jimmy was 33 in 1909, when he moved to manage the colliery at Bellbird accompanied by his wife, Sarah, and their young family, including my father Milton aged 10. Bellbird employed up to 600 miners underground.

Milton boarded at Maitland Boys High School, which was the second public High School to be established in NSW after Fort Street in Sydney. At 17 he enlisted in the army for WW1 but only got as far as Capetown before the armistice was declared.

In 1923, Bellbird Colliery experienced a disastrous explosion early on a Saturday afternoon shortly after a 21-man maintenance crew entered the mine and most of the regular miners had left. Miners worked 5 ½ days a week. My father, Milton, who was the mine surveyor at the time, sounded the alarm. A rescue team including Milton and others, entered the mine to attempt a rescue, but to no avail, and the entrances to the mine were sealed off later that night to prevent the explosions and fire continuing. It was more than 2 years later before an attempt was made to re-enter the mine and recover the bodies of those lost.

Milton was promoted to under- manager by Jimmy who remained manager of Bellbird until his death from prostate cancer 23 July 1941, age 65.

Milton remained in his position of under-manager until 1939, when he was appointed mines inspector for NSW based in Newcastle, a position he held throughout the war years. During that time the Australian Government took possession of all coal produced for the war effort and Milton was responsible for monitoring that. Immediately after the war, Milton was sent to Britain by the Australian Government to accompany and report on a British National Coal Board investigation of coal mining practices on the Ruhr in Germany.

Following that, Milton was approached by the NSW Government to participate in the establishment of a State Mines Control Authority to produce coal exclusively for the newly formed NSW Electricity Commission, which had plans to build a series of new generation power stations. The first of those was to be at Wangi Wangi on Lake Macquarie outside Newcastle. Following that Milton established and developed the first State Coal Mine at Awaba, near Toronto to supply coal for Wangi Wangi (both now closed and dismantled). Subsequent mines were developed by him, Liddell State Coal Mine for the shortly to be decommissioned Liddell power station, Wyee State Coal Mine for Vales Point power station (both still operating), and Munmorah State Coal Mine for Munmorah Power Station (both decommissioned).

I graduated in Mining Engineering from The University of Sydney in 1960 and joined Awaba State Coal Mine as Overman. After 3 years in that position, I resigned and joined the Sydney manufacturing subsidiary of the Eimco Corporation, which was a USA based mining equipment manufacturer. In 1970 they sent me and my family to India to establish a joint venture there called Eimco-KCP, which flourishes to-day. After a subsequent stint at head office in Salt Lake City, I returned to Australia to head their operations here. I resigned in 1980 and after a few years consulting became engrossed with gold and other mineral extraction processes to the extent that I started my own machinery manufacturing business in 1987. Consep Pty. Limited in western Sydney now employs around 100 engineers and skilled trades people and for the last 3 years has been awarded the NSW Premier's Export Award.

My 2 x great grandfather Donald Munro Matheson

By Lyn Torney (nee Hollingsworth)

Donald Munro Matheson died on July 22 1877 in Knowsley, Victoria age 63 and he is buried in the Heathcote Cemetery. This would have his birth year to be about 1814. He is reported to be a native of Kilmuir on the Isle of Skye, Scotland but little has been able to be verified in the Scottish Records.

Donald's arrival in Australia has not been traced to shipping records but it is thought that he arrived sometime before 1842. On 13 July 1846 Donald married Maria Josephine Keogh at the St Francis Church in Melbourne. Maria was born in Galway, Ireland about 1825 and sadly died on 6 February 1863, age 38. Donald and Maria were the parents of 8 children, including my great grandmother (see article published in the May 2019 Clan Newsletter).

It is recorded that Donald was working in 1842 as a Manager on the Campaspe Plains Run.

This was a large area of central Victoria that was settled after Major Mitchell led an exploration into the area in 1836. Donald was employed there for about 10 years by Daniel Jennings (and Dr George Playne for a few years whilst Jennings travelled to India and England).

A ledger still exists today covering the years 1847-1849.

Date	Description	£	s	d
1848	Mr D. M. Matheson			
25 July	Debit from old Book page 26	8	13	"
	Bills on Watson & Wright in favour of	"	"	"
	Mr Mills Campbell's Run	18	"	"
1 Aug	Cash to Tomkins acct	"	5	"
Oct 2	Cash to P. B. Bunn's acct	"	3	"

Subdivision of the area started in about 1849 with the area later to be known as the Derrinal Station, the Moorabbee Station, the Langwornor Station and the Kimbolton Station.

After leaving Jennings employment, Donald settled on land to the north of the current township of Knowsley at the junction of the Sandhurst and Murray Roads on the banks of Forest Creek. A family home and hotel was built during 1852 and the hotel opened for business in 1853. The Mclvor Times and Rodney Advertiser also records that he planted a very fine garden with an abundance of fruit trees and vines.

Donald was not swayed by the later discovery of gold in the district but reaped rewards in being able to provide lodgings to many passing through. The Hotel is recorded in the papers of the Burke and Wills Expedition in August 1860 and it was a regular stopover point for the Cobb and Co coach between Melbourne and Echuca.



In the following years Donald purchased blocks of farming land adjacent to the Wild Duck Creek (known as the Portree Paddock – red outline) and the Mount Ida Creek with the property there still being called Kilmuir today (green outline applied to largest block).

In Heathcote he purchased several township blocks but at the time of his death two blocks were undeveloped

My 2 x great grandfather Donald Munro Matheson continued. . . .

and the buildings on the other blocks were occupied by a watchmaker, a solicitor and a butcher's shop. Land was also acquired at Runnymede on the Campaspe River, south of Elmore and at Moora west of Rochester.



Donald was a much-respected early settler in the Heathcote district and was a supporter of the early Agricultural Societies in the district.

At a public meeting of householders and landholders in December 1861 he was elected as a member to the first Heathcote and Waranga Road District Board, becoming joint Chairman in 1862.

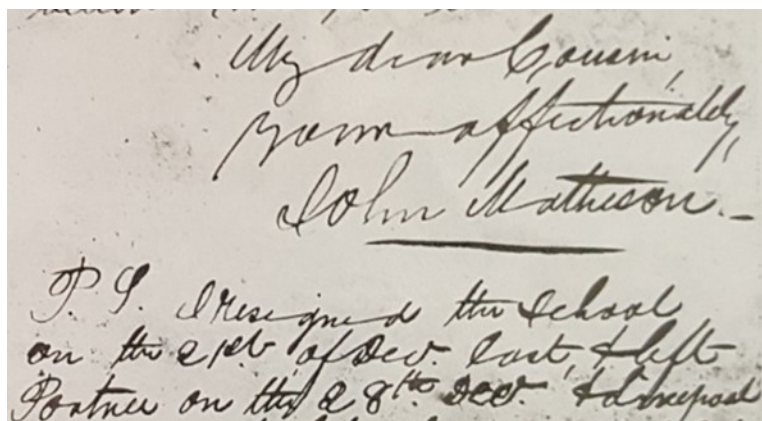
In June 1863 a realignment of districts occurred, and the Heathcote District Road Board commenced with Donald as the Chairman. In December 1864 the district was pro-

claimed a Shire and Donald was the first Mclvor Shire President and he continued in that role in 1865.

The family has several notebooks and letters from the 1850's that are currently being transcribed for easier access in the future, but the information perhaps raises more questions than provides answers.

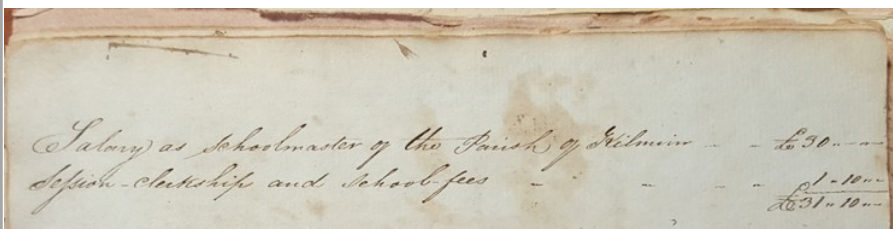
Donald's brother John journeyed to Victoria in 1853, it is thought from the Californian Goldfields. John died in Moora on 3 August 1897, age 75 years and he is buried in the Rushworth Cemetery. He operated the Victoria Hotel at Moora for about 30 years and was also the local Pound Keeper. He married Mary Anne Walker in 1859 but they divorced ten years later. John then entered into a common-law marriage arrangement with Elizabeth Luckhurst from Rushworth and they became the parents of 6 children between 1877 and 1892. The arrangement was legalised with a marriage registered in 1897 just prior to John's death. On John's death certificate his parents are listed as Archabald Matheson and Margaret Munro.

Norman Matheson, the son of Donald Matheson (a Merchant in Stenscholl) and Janet MacDonald, arrived in Victoria in September 1851 and based on a letter dated Feb 1852 he states that Donald Munro Matheson was his first cousin. The letter also states that Dr Lachlan Martin Matheson (1817-1889) of Portree (the son of Murdo Matheson and Catherine Martin) was also Donald's first cousin. A later letter was written by Norman in 1853 from South Geelong. After initially going to the gold diggings he made his way back to Geelong, worked as a Turnkey at the Geelong Goal, then at the Retreat Hotel with John MacInnes before becoming a contractor to a Mr W Howard, Engineer. Are there any descendants of this Norman Matheson?



Another letter written from the Retreat Hotel, South Geelong is from a John Matheson, a cousin of Donald Munro Matheson, who arrived in Melbourne in May 1853 on the ship "Eagle". John was the School Master at Kilmuir until he resigned on December 21 1852. Are there any descendants of this John Matheson?

My 2 x great grandfather Donald Munro Matheson continued.



An Archibald Matheson was also a School Master at Kilmuir. Here is a record of the School Masters salary in abt 1847.

Donald's papers also include a copy of the will of Alexander Martin Matheson and a letter to his father following his death. What is the family connection? Alexander's father is recorded as Murdoch Matheson and his brothers as Lachlan Martin Matheson, Archibald Matheson, Donald Matheson and John Matheson, all natives of Kilmuir, Isle of Skye. Alexander died in Macao, Hong Kong on 9 August 1845 after a short illness.

Many Matheson families journeyed from Scotland to Australia in the 1800's and tracing connections some 150+ years later can be problematic. If the above sparks a potential link in your family tree I would be very happy to hear from you, my email address is ltorney@aussiebb.com.au

Dé Tha Dol? - What's doin' ?

November 24 St Andrews Day – Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service

Toukley, NSW - St David's Presbyterian Church, Victoria Ave

Info: Susan Cooke info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

November 24 St Andrews Day – Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service

Sydney - St Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie St

Info: Susan Cooke info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

November 30 Happy St Andrew's Day

Nationwide – Australia

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

December 7 Daylesford Highland Gathering & Clan Matheson Meeting

Daylesford, VIC - Victoria Park, located at the southern entrance of Daylesford.

Info: www.daylesfordhighland.com

Clan Matheson Society Australian Branch Office Bearers

Chief's Lieutenant	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
President:	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Warren Matheson	warrenmatheson@bigpond.com
Secretary:	Roma Jorgenson	rjorgenson@bigpond.com
Treasurer:	Genevieve Ahearne	secretary.clanmatheson@gmail.com
Piper:	Warren Matheson	warrenmatheson@bigpond.com
Genealogist: (acting)	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
Newsletter: (acting)	Dr Colin Matheson	colin.matheson@gmail.com
Website:	Brad Matheson	brad@domainpc.com.au



Clan Matheson Merchandise

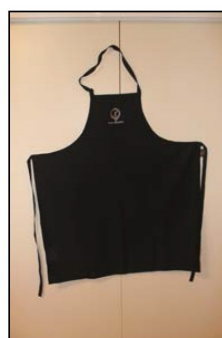
Roma Jorgenson
Phone: (03) 59791781
rjorgenson@bigpond.com



Ladies Polo Shirt
Various Styles
Sizes 12 - 16
White, beige
\$25



Men's Polo Shirt
Sizes M - XXXL
Navy, Maroon
\$25



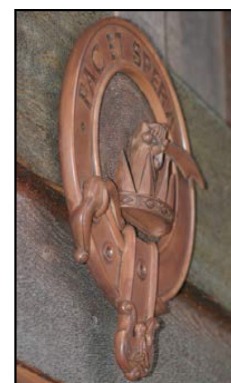
BBQ Apron
Black \$25



Sew on Clan Crest Patches
Blue, Green
\$5 each



Caps Black, Sand \$15 One Size Fits All
Bucket Hats Sand \$15 Sizes S/M or L/XL
Knitted Beanie Navy, Black \$15 One Size Fits All
Polar Fleece Beanie Navy, Black \$15 One Size Fits All



Wall Plaques
Leather/Wood-Look Resin in 3D
Product is of exceptional quality
11" x 14" - \$50



Mugs
White
\$10 each
Drink Bottle
White
\$5
Stubby Holder
Black
\$5

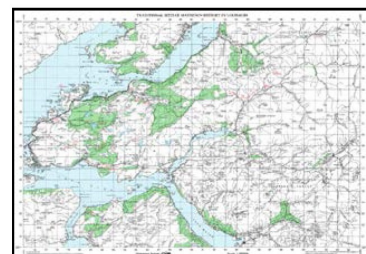


Not Illustrated

Red shopping bags \$5
With Clan Crest

Glasses Cleaners \$3
With Clan Crest

Please Note:
Postage is not
included in prices



Maps of Matheson sites
Based on Ordnance Survey
With place-names booklet

Small \$5 Laminated \$15
Large \$10 Laminated \$20